Different Groups in Islam

1. In Islam, what is creativity?

Sunni
In Islam, creativity (bida'h) is to create and Islam is not against it.

Shia
In Islam, where there is ignorance then there will be concerns and there will be rejection. It does not mean that thing does not exist. I do not know medicine but I cannot deny its existence. After Ibn Hasina etc, for 500 years they have been creative and after that, they have not done anything practical.

Wahabbi
The answer to this is the Hadith of the Prophet pbuH who states: 'He who innovates, or creates or brings into Deen (Islam) and that thing is not part of the Deen, that thing will be rejected'. So anything which Prophet pbuH did not teach or did not practice or anything the Sahabah, the Companions (of the Prophet pbuH) never understood as Deen and also the students of the Sahabah, those that came after them and what they class as out of Deen is classed as bida'h. The three generations that we talk about... anything to do with Deen was present in these three times that will be classed as-Sunnah and contrary to that will be bidah, something new to Islam.

Deobandi
Imam Nawani says something that was not in the time of Prophet pbuH is bida'h.
Whatever was not in the time of the Prophet pbuH is bida'h (bad bida'h).
Question: Celebrating the birth of the Prophet pbuH what category would that fall in?
Answer: If it was celebrated in those times by the Sahabah (Companions of the Prophet pbuH) then yes.

Barelvi
Bida'h means, it has come from the word badah which means something new and innovative. According to many Ulemas something not in the time of Prophet pbuH.

Salafi
Allah has completed the religion and chosen Islam for you. Islam cannot create something as it states that 'if it's not in my way it is rejected'. There are two types of bida'h, the good bida'h and bida'h according to Shariah Law

Sufi
There are two definitions, one is anything new that was not there in the past, second is in the quran and Sunnah and complies with it

2. Do different traditions have different perceptions of creativity in Islam?

Sunni
There are limitations on creativity definition, some people have a complete ban. There is a good innovation and then there is also bad innovation. Good innovation is something good that does not contradict with Islam. The bad is that contradicts Islam. We do not see anything that would complete stop creativity. Or else in the Quran, which came after such as the pulpit in the Mosque, something that is not against Islam, you cannot say anything against it. If Islam was against innovation then things that have been derived would not have been done. Islam does not ban creativity.

Shia
[no response]

Wahabbi
Others... will see bida'h with a different point of view... Others (Salafi)... will see practices of sects as bida'h

Deobandi
Yes everyone has their own different opinions regarding bida'h.

Barelvi
There is one interpretation... but different schools of thought have taken control of this issue from different angles... not every innovation is bad... in Bukhari... every bidah is misguidance and... leads to hell-fire.
The collection of Hadith... was not at the time of Prophet pbuH.
... Is Sahih Al Bukhari a good bidah or bad bidah? ... People are acting on it and successfully practising Islam... There are some schools of thoughts that say all bidah is bad bidah.

… Our pious predecessors have given us… what good and bad bidah is…

Salafi
Yes—some practice Shirk

Sufi
There are different explanations, but the definition is the same…
There has been development in Islam and that is bida'h, e.g. the form of the Quran was not there before, and that is being read by Shia, Salafi…
There has been a great development in the grammar of Arabic that is bida'h, that is a development and that is good bida'h. Also, a watch, that was not there in the past. Also, prayer timetable in your mobile phone, the way you live that is a development.
However, at weddings, the way we do weddings that is a development…
The use of loudspeaker and radio that is a good development, a good bida'h…
In the past people were fighting with swords and arrows and now there are bombs… This is a development…

3. Does Islam promote creativity?

Sunni
Yes, Islam states things that are not against Islam, and benefit people is fine. For example, the translation of the Quran, benefits people and does not go against Islam. There are some technologies that benefit people and Islam allows that

Shia
Yes, Islam has asked Muslims to obtain knowledge even if you have to China. The word China was never said by the Prophet pbuH but knowledge was important and people just accepted that was said as it was good to obtain knowledge.It was discussed that how is it that we can obtain knowledge from a religion that is not Islam, it was said that you (Muslims) have a right over knowledge so should.

Wahabbi
In terms of Deen no, things which are already set for us, we have to follow them, in terms of creativity in terms of duniyah (world) and we create things in this world, that we have to make sure we remain in the guidelines of Islam

Deobandi

There are two types of bidah, the good bida'h and bad bida'h.

Barelvi
Everything is allowed unless proven wrong…
If in Islam something wrong and Islam will not praise

Salafi
People create bida'h Islam does not

Sufi
There are two types, one is the one that is against Quran and Sunnah, that is forbidden…
There are certain sects that are bida'h and it is haram (unlawful)
There is bida'h hasnah (good bidah) such as prayers, celebrating the birth of the Prophet pbuH… prayers of ramzan… Reading behind the Imam…
This is good bida'h

4. How do you view creativity?

Sunni
The Quran allows creativity and we are not against it

Shia
Islam is creative as it mentions test-tube babies and the internet in the Quran.

Wahabbi
A lot of people have a misunderstanding that means the cars we drive… the houses we live in… the planes we travel in are also bidah… these things were not present during the great era of Sahabah. In the Hadith, it states: 'He, who innovates in this matter of Deen'… anything to do with worldly things… there is no stoppage to that. The Prophet pbuH states that 'all bida'h is misguided' and will lead you astray and will not keep you on the right path.

Deobandi
I go along with the view of my teachers.

Barelvi
I personally view bidah as seeing something and seeing what Islam says about it, is it good for me… Does it take me closer to Allah…to Prophet pbuH and does not have any physical and spiritual harm then we will

promote that…

Salafi
Bida'h is to bring something new to Shariah from Islam. People do not know its bida'h they think it is true or else they will not do bida'h. Something new that was not there before

Sufi
There are two definitions, one is anything new that was not there in the past, second is in the quran and Sunnah and complies with it

5. Does Islam limit creativity?

Sunni
There are limitations, just that rule or obligations of Islam is not contradicted then that cannot be agreed to If Allah and Prophet pbuH state that there are four rakat (stages) in a prayer and someone reads five, then they have gone against Islam and its rule. This will be rejected.

Shia
Islam has not provided people with freedom but rather has asked them to remain within guidelines.

Wahabbi
Creativity, innovation or bida'h has no place in Islam. Deen is complete and there is no room that we can start saying that we can start bringing this thing into Islam or that thing into Islam, Islam does not allow that.

Deobandi
Islam limits, there is good bida'h and bad bidah which must fall into seven categories, permitted, obligatory, recommended, unlawful…

Barelvi
if there is no Quranic injunction against it or any injunction against Hadith against it then we will promote it.
If there is solid proof or Quranic or injunction or from hadith then we will reject it…

Salafi
In its entirety. If 'it's not of my way its rejected'

Sufi

No, if it is Sunnah and Quran then it is a good thing...

6. Does Islamic Law block the expansion of creativity in Islam due to its stringent rules on ethics?

Sunni
No, absolutely does not block it, a person must follow the rules of Islam and Islam will not stop you. According to Islam, there are certain rules that allow and permit people to do certain things and it is not against Islam

Shia
Islam has rules, Islam does not prevent from spending money but not on yourself, Islam does not prevent you from ownership, but stops you from taking someone else's, Islam does not stop you from eating well but stops you from kicking a hungry person away. In Islam, there are rules that must be followed for the benefit of you and the people...

Wahabbi
You need to ask a Mufti

Deobandi
No

Barelvi
In Islam, Islam does not basically block bidah... Islam is a Deen, a religion that has come for all times, so it means that after 20 30 40 50 years new things will take place... and if they are beneficial to the Muslim for example the iPhone, people can read the Quran on it... even those that say bidah is wrong they even use iphone as well.
Islam will only block the expansion of bidah if it seems this bidah is taking people away from the right path.

Salafi
Everything in worldly life is permissible unless we have [sacred] text to prohibit it e.g. alcohol

Sufi
No, if it is Sunnah and Quran then it is a good thing... If there is no proof then that is Bidah Seeyah (forbidden bida'h) and the Prophet pbuH said that person will enter hell-fire...
... The way we celebrate weddings with music and dancing that is wrong...
A good development according to Quran and Sunnah such as heart

surgery

7. Do you believe Islam should have a greater contribution to creativity?

Sunni
Absolutely, I believe that in Islam the trouble started when people started to interpret innovation in a manner that prevented people to push forward for creativity... ...Some people believe that they do not understand the limit of Islam and then they do not wish to cross that limit... Islam does not allow you to put your intelligence on the back foot, this is not acceptable in Islam. The Quran states: 'Oh intelligent people the wisdom is for you...' That is why the Quran has directed the intelligent people to seek knowledge. In other religions, the intelligence stopped when creativity stopped. I believe that a person in Deen (religion) will expand Deen by expanding Deen through creativity. Question: Deen and Bida'h are two different things: Answer: Yes, there are so many technologies that they benefit from. Now the news can travel faster, and people can travel faster, and that benefits people. When the loudspeaker was introduced, people placed a fatwa on it, whenever a new thing appears, some people attempt to discredit it by labelling it wrong. Allah has given intelligence so that people can understand and be responsible and be knowledgeable

Shia
Islam has not provided people with freedom but rather has asked them to remain within guidelines.

Wahabbi
In terms of duniya, the West has exceeded in science and technology and definitely Muslims, must make sure they remain in the guidelines of Quran and Sunnah, must contribute...

Deobandi
I do not know the answer to this

Barelvi
Islam does have a great contribution to bidah. There are many things that Islam allows us to do, for example, the carpet infront of us, it has prayer marks on it, it wasn't at the time of the Prophet pbuH, but we have the marks to tell me where they need to stand for prayer and the space they have.
If this form of bidah carries on... it will be allowed

Salafi
Yes it is permissible, there should be engineers and scientists

Sufi
There should substantial contributions… Some have made watches… Ibn Hasina [expert in eye operations]… Muslims have done great developments

8. What is the process of determining creativity in Islam in the absence of any guidelines that one can follow?

Sunni
There are rules in Islam such as permissible, obligatory, unlawful etc… A person must contact an Ulema for this. If you do not know if something is good or bad, or permitted or not permitted then an Ulema can tell you. But if something is against Islam then no that is not permitted

Shia
The biggest thing is the intention of creating, secondly Islam has not provided people with freedom but rather has asked them to remain within guidelines. It is the intention and that creation how it benefits the people, and looking at all this then a conclusion can be reached.

Wahabbi
Within Muslim groups there are certain scholars and certain Ulema's will sit down and assess a situation or … a product and then will make a judgement and say this complies with Quran, Sunnah or Shariah, or if it does not comply… they will say this thing is wrong or haram…
On a world level, scholars… get together and discuss issues… and accordingly, they will pass their judgements…

Deobandi
There are seven types as I have said, you have to view it under that, is it permitted, obligatory, recommended, unlawful… You have to view it under those categories

Barelvi
All the work that needed to be done has been done by the pious predecessors and the Ulema. People need to look at their life… all the groundwork has been done…
Acknowledging the works of… Imam Nawani (ra) Imam Tabrezi (ra)… great

men who worked in the field… if we do not acknowledge that work and do not rely upon their trust and on their hard work then we will be misguided. Our pious predecessors Allah has given them much more… than this generation… every time and every era were much closer to the time of the Prophet pbuH and is better than the time coming after it.
… people undermining… the Ulema

Salafi
If its haram or halal. If you create perfume then it's okay, if you create alcohol then no.

Sufi
Has to be according to Quran, Sunnah and Hadith

9. What would you say has been the biggest prevention in the rise of Islamic creativity?

Sunni
In every society, there are people that are against creativity and knowledge. In Islam, there are these hardliner people, and these people start placing fatwa on people. Then research will be stopped as a result of this. The authentic Ulema should only decide and the hardliner people should not listen to.

Shia
There is a concern, that Muslims have not contributed… It is because Islam wants Muslims to follow it and Muslims want Islam to follow them… Muslims see Islam as a commodity that they can mould to their satisfaction.
If Muslims want to achieve success and creativity then they need the Quran and the knowledge of the Ahl Ul Bayt and… after that… even if Muslims wanted to step on the surface of the sun they would find a way to do so.

Wahabbi
Back in the days, when Islam was one unit, the government was run through the Islamic jurisprudence, the Quran and Sunnah, and they fund Scholars and they will do their researches. The whole idea was to benefit mankind and humanity, since this is not the case and has not been the case for several centuries… greed has crept into…gone away from the Deen and Islam, the true teachings of Prophet pbuH… Therefore, anything that we do we do not look at it from a universal point of view and we have

gone away from the Deen and the love of the duniyah has come into our hearts so that has stopped us from creativity.

Deobandi
It is not the religion itself, it is probably the people.

Barelvi
The biggest prevention… in creativity… is lack of knowledge in the minds of the people and they need to be taught and they can only be taught if they have interest…
The other thing that is blocking creativity is where we have small groups of self styled scholars, self styled Imams, self styled teachers, can speak good English… get on the media… and think he can speak Islam… but have no authenticity… they are extreme people have extreme mind and they always say we stick to what was in the times of the Prophet pbuH and everything after that is haram and they are the biggest hindrance and the Prophet pbuH came to make the world creative… but people have become ignorant… to the true teachings of Islam

Salafi
All good comes from practising religion—Muslims have left practising

Sufi
We have become lazy, we have started fighting between ourself… If I am doing a good job, the other person will say that is bad bida'h to stop me from doing it even though he himself is doing it…
There is a lot of advancement and Muslims should be part of it… some developments have to be seen if that is according to Quran and Sunnah… and if we advance then that is good bida'h